



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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April 2, 2002

TO: Internal File

THRU: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor *PG*

FROM: Peter H. Hess, Sr. Reclamation Specialist/Engineering *PH*

RE: Technical Field Visit, Phase I Reclamation, Energy West Mining Company, Des-Bee-Dove Mine, C/015/017

Other Attendees:

Mr. Dennis Oakley, Senior Environmental Engineer, Energy West

Date & Time:

March 28, 2002 from 9 AM-12 PM

PURPOSE:

To evaluate the progress of the Phase 1 reclamation activities and to the best extent possible evaluate compliance with the currently approved Phase I reclamation plan.

OBSERVATIONS:

The permittee has re-established the pre-mining channel configuration for Drainage #1, which is located on the south end of the upper pad. The amount of riprap that has been placed here seems to indicate that this channel handles a great deal of flow. The area has been hydro mulched, but some of the area appears to have been treated too lightly. The currently approved plan indicates that mulch will be applied at a rate varying from 1500 to 2000 pounds per acre. It is Mr. Oakley's intent to instruct the mulching contractor to spray all future areas at a maintained 2000 pounds per acres volume. The area that has been sprayed adjacent to the Drainage #1 will be re-coated so that it will meet the requirements of the approved reclamation plan for Phase I.

TECHNICAL FIELD VISIT

Nielsen Construction was in the process of pushing earth material up toward the cut bank associated with the area between the old belt portal and fan portal. Due to the extreme steepness of the adjacent Canyon slopes, it is very likely that the backfilling process will not cover the entire cut. Mr. Oakley was questioned relative to the testing for adequate compaction by the permittee's geotechnical engineer. He indicated that this is being done, although the records were not reviewed this day.

A trackhoe was observed making pocks in the backfilled slope above the dozer. The hoe operator was placing hay in the pocks and crimping in the straw via manual methods. Mr. Oakley instructed the hoe operator to make the pocks larger, by working the bucket out.

There was no other activity going on at the site this day.

The riprap wall that had been built in the lower portion of Drainage #2 was observed. Mr. Oakley explained the necessity of bringing the discharge end of Drainage #3 more to the west because that is how it had been naturally established. The converging flows, and the necessity to turn this volume of water so it can drop off the escarpment necessitated protecting the soft bank material here. It is this individual's opinion that the construction of this rock wall was justified.

RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

The Phase I reclamation seems to be proceeding as planned, with the operator implementing minor field changes as they are felt to be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. The degree of a field change allowable without a revision to a plan has always been an area of contention between the Division and the permittee's, and it will undoubtedly continue to be so for many years to come. Both sides must be willing to communicate, and cooperate in order to achieve the best reclamation job possible at the most cost effective means.

cc: All Attendees
Price Field Office
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